

Magalia Fire Salvage Project

PALS 55459, 02/12/2019 (updated 04/19/2019)

Areas along Coutolenc Road and Lucretia Road and around Paradise Lake area were burned severely in the *Camp* Fire (November 8-25, 2018). Tree mortality has occurred in areas of high and mixed fire severity. We propose to log the trees that have died, will die and were skinned up severely in dozer line operations. These dead, dying, and structurally damaged live trees present an imminent safety hazard and risk to forest visitors, neighboring landowners and their homes, employees and facilities.

The project includes mixed conifer species: ponderosa pine, white fir, incense cedar, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, madrone, tan-oak, and black-oak. It is proposed to salvage these trees in the spring of 2019 using conventional or mechanical tractor logging practices. This project includes the identification and removal of hazard trees. Approximate size for the Magalia project is 178 acres with an approximate volume of 600 MBF.

Re-entry may occur up to 3 years to remove any additional danger trees for additional volume. Trees to be removed under this project will be designated with Blue Paint for cut tree mark in the low severity areas or Leave Tree mark of white paint will be used in high severity fire areas. Boundaries will be flagged with blue flagging and have painted orange. Pink and blue flags are designated to mark corners of units or where they intersect with roads. The boundary of the polygons on the attached map shows the location of proposed tree removal.

The proposal also includes reforestation and maintenance activities to include: site preparation which can include biomassing, hand-cutting, hand- or grapple-piling and pile burning; planting; grubbing after planting; and a variety of maintenance activities including mastication, hand-cut and hand- or grapple-pile, pile burning, prescribed fire, and targeted grazing. Maintenance could be needed for a period of 40 or more years. Planting could consist of conifer or hardwood species or some combination that is appropriate for future climatic conditions.

The fire exposed a large, open, abandoned mining shaft that presents a hazard to the public and the administration of the forest. We propose to close the shaft by backfilling it with a spoils pile located nearby using an excavator. If the spoils pile cannot be used, material will have to be hauled in from off site.

Due to the Camp Fire an ephemeral stream is diverted down an old railroad grade for approximately 4,815 feet and enters an intermittent stream on private property. We propose to divert the stream flow back to the streams original channel by adding 4 armored dips and 3 low water crossings to resolve the hydroconnectivity issue. A 24 inch culvert is needed to replace an undersized culvert. Other drainage features may be constructed if conditions worsen.

An unclassified road segment is causing resource damages to soils and water. To restore proper function we propose to rip the road surface, add slash, chipped biomass, and/or weed-free straw for effective soil cover. We would also remove a culvert and construct 3 armored low water crossings. A nearby skid trail is adding sediment to the unclassified road segment. We would add a waterbar to resolve.

The area is within the Concow Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project EIS (2011) and more recently reentered as the Coutolenc Roadside Hazard Tree Salvage Project (2017) and service work by the Butte County Fire Safe Council (2018).

On February 7, 2019 FRRD timber staff and wildlife biologists spent the day on site with provincial entomologist Danny Cluck. As a group they marked units using the marking guidelines for fire-injured trees in California. Danny Cluck is a co-author of these marking guidelines and served as a subject matter expert on the marking guidelines and standardizing their interpretation across the interdisciplinary team.

On February 12, 2019, 29 representatives of local government, environmental organizations, industry, federal agencies, and the Forest Service visited the Magalia Fire Salvage project area as part of a larger field trip to tour National Forest System lands in the Camp Fire area. The project was introduced at the field trip site and later that evening at the quarterly meeting of the FRRD Collaborative.

The project was entered into PALS and appeared on the Schedule Of Proposed Actions (SOPA) on February 20, 2019. Clay Davis, FRRD District Planner briefed the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee on February 25, 2019 at their monthly meeting.

The project is anticipated to have a decision in May, 2019. Please provide any comments to Eric J. Murphy, ejmurphy@fs.fed.us or Clay R. Davis, clayrdavis@fs.fed.us